1. A disposable article comprising:

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- A) a liquid impervious backsheet;
- B) a liquid pervious, hydrophilic topsheet joined to said backsheet, said topsheet having an inner surface oriented toward the interior of said article and an outer surface oriented toward the skin of the wearer when said article is being worn, wherein at least a portion of said topsheet outer surface comprises an effective amount of a lotion coating which is semi-solid or solid at 20°C and which is partially transferable to the wearer's skin; and
- C) an absorbent core positioned between said topsheet and said backsheet; wherein the lotion is applied to the liquid pervious topsheet nonuniformly.
- 2. The disposable article of Claim 1 wherein the lotion is applied to the outer surface of the liquid pervious topsheet such that regions of the topsheet's outer surface are not coated with lotion.
- 3. The disposable article of Claim 1 wherein the percent open area of the topsheet is from about 1% to about 99%.
- 4. The disposable article of Claim 3 wherein the percent open area of the topsheet is from about 5% to about 95%.
- 5. The disposable article of Claim 4 wherein the percent open area of the topsheet is from about 10% to about 90%.
- 6. The disposable article of Claim 5 wherein the percent open area of the topsheet is from about 20% to about 80%.
- 7. The disposable article of Claim 6 wherein the percent open area of the topsheet is from about 30% to about 70%.
- 8. The disposable article of Claim 1 wherein the lotion is applied to the topsheet in the form of a plurality of stripes that are separated by a plurality of stripes having no lotion.

- 9. The disposable article of Claim 1 wherein the lotion comprises a petroleum based emollient selected from the group consisting of mineral oil, petrolatum, and mixtures thereof.
- 10. The disposable article of Claim 9 wherein said emollient is petrolatum.
- 11. The disposable article of Claim 9 wherein said emollient is mineral oil.
- 12. The disposable article of Claim 9 wherein said lotion coating comprises an immobilizing agent, said immobilizing agent having a melting point of at least about 40°C.
- 13. A disposable article comprising:
  - A) a liquid impervious backsheet;
  - B) a liquid pervious, hydrophilic topsheet joined to said backsheet, said topsheet having an inner surface oriented toward the interior of said article and an outer surface oriented toward the skin of the wearer when said article is being worn, wherein at least a portion of said topsheet outer surface comprises an effective amount of a lotion coating which is semi-solid or solid at 20°C and which is partially transferable to the wearer's skin, said lotion coating comprising:
    - (i) from about 10 to about 95% of a substantially water free emollient having a plastic or fluid consistency at 20°C and comprising a member selected from the group consisting of petroleum-based emollients, fatty acid ester emollients, alkyl ethoxylate emollients, and mixtures thereof;
    - (ii) from about 5 to about 90% of one or more agents capable of immobilizing said emollient on said outer surface of the topsheet, said one or more immobilizing agents having a melting point of at least about 35°C; and
  - C) an absorbent core positioned between said topsheet and said backsheet; wherein the lotion is applied to the liquid pervious topsheet nonuniformly.
- 14. The disposable article of Claim 13 wherein the lotion is applied to the outer surface of the liquid pervious topsheet such that certain areas of the topsheet are not coated with lotion.

- 15. The disposable article of Claim 14 wherein the percent open area of the topsheet is from about 1% to about 99%.
- 16. The disposable article of Claim 15 wherein the percent open area of the topsheet is from about 5% to about 95%.
- 17. The disposable article of Claim 16 wherein the percent open area of the topsheet is from about 10% to about 90%.
- 18. The disposable article of Claim 13 wherein said emollient contains about 5% or less water and comprises a petroleum based emollient selected from the group consisting of mineral oil, petrolatum, and mixtures thereof.
- 19. The disposable article of Claim 18 wherein said emollient is petrolatum.
- 20. The disposable article of Claim 18 wherein said emollient is mineral oil.
- 21. The disposable article of Claim 13 wherein said lotion coating comprises from about 5 to about 50% of said immobilizing agent, said immobilizing agent having a melting point of at least about 40°C.
- 22. The disposable article of Claim 21 wherein said immobilizing agent comprises a C<sub>14</sub>-C<sub>22</sub> fatty alcohol.
- 23. The disposable article of Claim 22 wherein said immobilizing agent comprises a C<sub>16</sub>-C<sub>18</sub> fatty alcohol selected from the group consisting of cetyl alcohol, stearyl alcohol, and mixtures thereof.
- 24. The disposable article of Claim 21 wherein said immobilizing agent comprises a polyhydroxy fatty acid ester having the formula:

$$\begin{bmatrix} O \\ R - C - O \end{bmatrix}_{\mathbf{n}} \mathbf{Y}$$

wherein R is a C<sub>5</sub>-C<sub>31</sub> hydrocarbyl group; Y is a polyhydroxyhydrocarbyl moiety having a hydrocarbyl chain with at least 2 free hydroxyls directly connected to the chain; and n is at least 1.

25. The disposable article of Claim 21 wherein said immobilizing agent comprises a polyhydroxy fatty acid amide having the formula:

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wherein  $R^1$  is H,  $C_1$ - $C_4$  hydrocarbyl, 2-hydroxyethyl, 2-hydroxypropyl, methoxyethyl, methoxypropyl or a mixture thereof;  $R^2$  is a  $C_5$ - $C_{31}$  hydrocarbyl group; and Z is a polyhydroxyhydrocarbyl moiety having a linear hydrocarbyl chain with at least 3 hydroxyls directly connected to the chain.

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- 26. The disposable article of Claim 21 wherein said immobilizing agent comprises a paraffin wax.
- 27. The disposable article of Claim 14 wherein lotion is transferred to the skin that is contacted by the article during wear.

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